

**A remarkable new *Thereva* Latreille from Tunisia  
(Diptera: Therevidae)**

by

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**ABSTRACT**

*Thereva mirabilis* sp. n. is described. It originates in the coastal dune areas of Tabarka in northern Tunisia, and is recognised by two complete rows of dorsocentral setae and a pair of dark longitudinal stripes on the abdomen.

**TAXONOMY**

In November 1969 Drs M. E. Irwin and E. S. Ross collected two male specimens of a remarkable species of *Thereva* Latr. in coastal dunes in Tunisia. Although the taxonomy of the Palaearctic species of *Thereva* has not been recently revised, these two specimens are so unique that I do not hesitate to describe them as representing a new species.

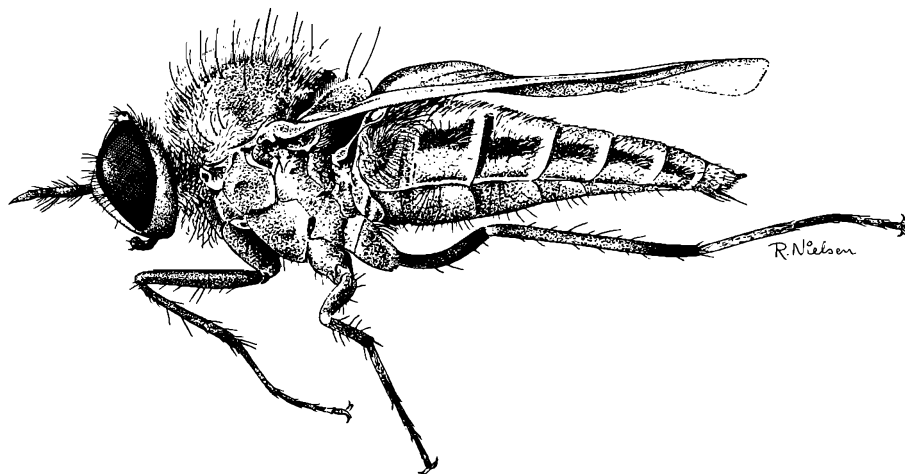


Fig. 1. Habitus of *Thereva mirabilis* sp. n., holotype ♂. Total length about 10 mm. (R. Nielsen del.).

***Thereva mirabilis* sp. n.**

Figs 1–3

Type locality. Tunisia: Cap Tabarka.

Type material. Holotype ♂ and paratype ♂: Tunisia, Cap Tabarka, sand dunes at sea level, 4.xi.1969, M. E. Irwin & E. S. Ross. In Zoological Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark.

**Diagnosis:** At once recognised by the two complete rows of very strong dorsocentral setae, 7–9 in each row, which reach to anterior margin of mesonotum; abdominal dorsum whitish grey tomentose, with narrow, dark brown longitudinal stripes along lateral margin (Fig. 1).

**Description, ♂.**

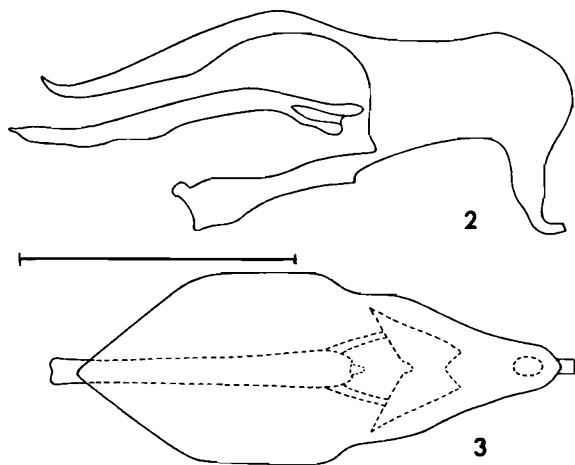
Total length about 10 mm.

**Head:** Eyes practically touching on frons for a short distance. Eye facets small and of nearly equal size. Frons and face silvery greyish tomentose, with a long pile of mostly whitish hairs, but black hairs intermixed on upper frons and on lateral parts of face. Only about 8–9 rather weak postocular setae, and only a couple of weak occipital setae. Lower occiput with a rich pile of whitish hairs; a tuft of black hairs on gena. Antenna about as long as depth of head; scape distinctly longer and wider than first flagellomere. Scape greyish with a number of strong black spines, especially dorsally; also additional paler pilosity. First flagellomere dirty brownish, about 2,6 times as long as style. Proboscis remarkably small, by far not reaching to level of antennal bases. Palpi also short, linear, with slightly dilated apex.

**Thorax:** Mesonotal chaetation as follows: 3–4 notopleurals, 2 supra-alars, 1–2 postalars, 7–9 dorsocentrals and 2 scutellars; all setae strong and black. Mesonotum greyish yellow tomentose, with darker brownish-grey stripes; its pilosity dense, long and tufty, most hairs whitish or beige, but black ones also present. Pleura pure grey with white pile on all sclerites. Fore and mid coxae with long white pile on posterior surface. Prosternum with pile.

**Legs.** Femora greyish black, with apices yellow-brown, most extensively so on hind femur. Fore and mid femora without setae, only with long whitish pile. Hind femur with row of 7–8 short anteroventral setae. Tibiae and tarsi yellow-brown, tarsi darkened towards apex.

**Wings.** Ground colour whitish hyaline. Stigma very distinct and dark brown. Veins of basal half of wing very pale brown. Veins of distal half of wing partly pale



Figs 2–3. Aedeagus in lateral view (2) and dorsal view (3) of *Thereva mirabilis* sp. n., paratype ♂. Scale: 0,5 mm. (W. Buch del.).

brown, partly brownish black, and thus appearing slightly maculated. Darkened veins positioned as follows: fork of  $R_4$  and  $R_5$ , cross-vein R-M, veins distally delimiting discal cell, cross-vein M-Cu, distal sections of medial, cubital and anal veins. Cell  $m_3$  is narrowly open. Knob of halter brown-black.

*Abdomen*: Dorsum pure whitish grey tomentose, hindmarginal hems whitish. In dorsal view lateral margins of tergites 2–6 with a continuous dark brown longitudinal stripe, but the actual lateral portion of the tergites (seen in lateral or ventral views) is whitish grey tomentose, as are the sternites. Abdominal pile rather sparse and entirely whitish.

Male terminalia (Figs 2–3). Relatively small and inconspicuous. Epandrium very short, distance along midline only about  $\frac{1}{4}$  as long as maximal width of epandrium. Gonocoxite with broadly rounded posterior margin; parameral process short and narrow. Aedeagus as in Figs 2–3.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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#### REFERENCE

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